GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4120
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2001
FOREIGN VISITS BY THE MINISTER
UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries visited by him during the last two years and the agreements signed during these visits;

(b) the details of these agreements; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on these foreign tours and the details of the benefits to the country by these visit?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) (b) & (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement to be laid on the Table of the House in reply to parts (a), (b) & (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4120 regarding `Foreign Visits by the Minister` due for answer on 14th December, 2001.

Statement showing the names of the Countries visited by the Minister and the agreements signed/meetings attended with details during the last two years (1999-2000 and 2000-2001).

(a) & (b) :

S. No.	Period of Visit	Countries visited	Agreements signed/meetings attended with details
1.	24.10.1999 to 26.10.1999	Switzerland.	At the invitation of Switzerland Government, the Minister attended the informal Ministerial Meeting of the `Friends of the New Round` at Lausanne, Switzerland as preparatory to the Seattle Ministerial Conference.
2.	27.11.1999 to 04.12.1999	USA	The Minister attended the Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at Seattle, USA. The Seattle Conference remained inconclusive.
3.	12.02.2000 to 24.02.2000	People`s Republic of China, Hong kong of China and Thailand	The Minister visited Beijing, People`s Republic to attend the VI Session of the Indo-China Joint Economic Group(JEG) which was held after a gap of about six years. The Session, hosted by Chinese Govt., also marked the 50th Anniversary of the Indo-Chinese Trade Relations. The Indian delegation included representatives from other Ministries like Agriculture, Steel, etc. The JEG coincided with a meeting of the Joint Business Committee and the Minister was accompanied by a Business delegation with representatives from FICCI, CII, FIEO and ASSOCHAM. During the visit, Agreed

Minutes of the meeting of the Indo-China Joint Economic Group were signed, besides the bilateral agreement on China`s accession to WTO. The delegation also visited and studied the Special Economic Zones in China.

During the return journey, the Minister visited Bangkok to attend the UNCTAD - X Conference. At Hong Kong, he inaugurated the ITPO`s exhibition namely `India into new Millennium`, which coincided with the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of India`s Republic Day and 50th Anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and People`s Republic of China. These visits helped to promote trade with countries.

4. 08-15.04.2000 Australia and New Zealand — The Minister`s visit to Australia and New Zealand, hosted by the respective Governments, was in connection with the 7th Session of the India-Australia Joint Ministerial Conference and the 7th Meeting of the India - New Zealand Joint Trade Committee (JTC). The meetings of the two Joint Business Councils also took place back to back to the Official Meetings.

5. 18-26.05.2000 U.K. and France. — The Minister visited :

- London to lead a Business delegation of FICCI at the Investment Promotion Meet and attended the Conference of Commercial Representatives of Indian Missions of the neighbouring countries.

- Paris to participate the 10th Session of the Indo-French Joint Committee and to lead the Business delegation of FICCI at the Investment Promotion Meet and

- Lyons to lead the Business delegation at the Investment Promotion Meet.

The Minister signed the Joint Statement of the Indo-French joint Committee. Ways and means of stepping up bilateral economic cooperation in various sectors were discussed.

6.13-20.06.2000 United Arab Emirates and Arab Republic of Egypt — En route to Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt the Minister participated in the Conference of Commercial Representatives (CRs) of the Indian Missions in Gulf region at Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The outcome is improved functioning of CRs.

At Cairo the Minister participated in G-15 summit and Trade Ministers meeting hosted by the Egypt Govt. The Indian concerns relating to Trade were effectively addressed and reflected in the Joint CommuniquÃ©.

7. 25-30.06.2000 Portugal. — The Minister joined the Hon. PM at Lisbon, Portugal

in connection with Indo - European Union Summit.

In addition to the businesses mentioned above, Minister had bilateral meetings with his counterparts and others, which also enhanced Trade Relations between India and the countries visited.

(c): An amount of Rs. 12,58,085/- has been incurred on air-fare, daily allowance and gifts for the hosts during the above mentioned visits undertaken by the Minister.